by chance in the following three different localities. All these sites lie within the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary.

1. Karian Shola, 1 km from Topslip; Three birds (2 adults, 1 young). Seen regularly at roost between December 1991 and February 1993.

2. Varagaliar Shola, 24 km from Topslip: A pair, seen on 19 December 1992.

3. Seechali, *c.* 10 km from Topslip: A pair seen on 8 October 1992.

These three areas are just between 0.2 to 2 km east of the Kerala border. The birds were seen in two very different habitats, i.e. evergreen forest undergrowth and dense bamboo jungle, adding support to Sugathan's finding that their habitat choice is varied. The evergreen forest area is represented by tree species such as *Carallia*, *Polyalthia*, *Mesua*, *Myristica*, *Alseodaphne* and *Garcinia*. The bamboo forest is almost exclusively bamboo, but for occasional lofty trees like *Terminalia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Bombax*. This Catholic nature of the Frogmouth's habitat choice makes them less vulnerable to local extinction. This leaves room for optimism that the birds are less-specialised than once believed and may survive even in areas where the evergreen forests have been damaged.

The Karian Shola birds were first seen at their roost on 29 December 1991 as a pair. This pair roosted in the same general area, (albeit with some brief disappearances), and mostly on the very same perch, until February of 1993, i.e. a period of 14 months. The pair appeared with a young bird in November 1992, which stayed with the parents for 2 months, till January 1993. The young bird would roost huddled and sandwiched between the parents. On one occasion, however, the young was seen roosting in a small plant some distance away.

The roosting birds were perched between *c.* 2 to 4 m above the ground. They would flush only when almost stumbled upon. They appeared very tame, allowing close approach, and seemed unperturbed by camera bulbs going off close by. When approached too closely, i.e. within a metre so, the birds would open their mouth wide revealing the extraordinarily large gape and the small grey flap of a tongue. Evidently this is a threat gesture, hitherto unreported by other observers.

The fact that seven of these cryptic, hard-to-find birds were recorded without actually searching for them, may mean that the bird may be much more common than is apparent. Sugathan (1981) also came to a similar conclusion after his extensive survey in Kerala.

These notes on the ceylon Frogmouths' habits, site-fidelity and parental care, although anecdotal, represent some of the first known information on this enigmatic bird. The Topslip area, with its convenient logistics, terrain and Frogmouth population, may be an ideal place to conduct a more detailed investigation of this species.

I thank my tribal guide Natarajan, but for whose "Frogmouth-eye" this note would never have materialised.

April 25, 1993

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18. AN ALBINO MYNA *ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS* (LINNAEUS)

On 18th September, 1992, I was going from Malda to Raiganj. These two are well known towns of West Bengal. While I was in the midst of Itahar and Raiganj our car stopped near Durgapur (a village of the district Uttar Dinajpur). I observed there a white Myna walking and feeding on the insects and food grains near the road side accompanied by three normal coloured common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*). The albino was dusty white but the head was chocolate brown. Two brown stripes on each wing and on tail was clearly visible during flight. The colour of the legs and cheek was pinkish instead of yellow but the colour of the bill was yellowish. I had no doubt that the bird was a common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and albino one due to lack of pigmentation. Its walking style and call was same as common myna's. Before I could get some more details the bird flew away with its three companions. I have never heard or seen albinism in common myna.

February 23, 1993

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19. DISPERSED COMMUNAL ROOSTING IN COMMON MYNAS *ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS* (LINNAEUS)

Common Mynas *Acridotheres tristis* roost at night in large noisy assemblages in trees (Sengupta 1982). In these roosts, song can continue late into the evening and disturbances can lead to renewed singing throughout the night. In Singapore, this leads urban myna roosts to be regarded as troublesome on account of the noise (Hails 1985). Prior to entering the roost site, Common Mynas gather in pre-roost assemblies in open areas or on